full report see page 19.

Daily Average, 74,128; Sunday, 54,726.

ONE CENT.

No. 19.867.

WASHINGTON, D. C., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1915-TWENTY-FOUR PAGES.

RUSSIANS BEATEN, WIRES THE KAISER FROM EAST FRONT President Is Said to Have Admitted in Official Circles

"Our Beloved East Prussia Free From Enemy." Ruler Declares.

**BATTLES STILL RAGE** AT DIFFERENT POINTS

Extreme Wings of Czar's Armies Now Are Heavily Engaged With Foe.

DISORDERLY RETREAT DENIED

English Press Admits Slavs Must Have Lost Heavily-Germans Believed to Have Eves on Warsaw.

BERLIN, February 18, via province of East Prussia at Konigsberg has received the followbattle front

"The Russians are completely beaten. Our beloved East Prussia is free from the enemy.

Eastern Fighting Important.

Notwithstanding its intense interest in the important questions which now involve shipping interests, England has not lost sight of the military operations now in procress on both fronts. The fighting in East Prussia and Bukowina, where the two extreme wings of the Russian army are heavily engaged by Austro-German forces, is considered the most important activity now going on, either in the east or

the Russians must have lost heavily in the Russians must have lost heavily in their retreat in East Prussia, but the newspapers refuse to credit Field Marshal von Hindenburg with a great victory, pending the outcome of the line on the Niemen river. It is argued by British military experts that the German double flanking movement ap-parently has failed, and this view also is held at Petrograd.

In the Western Arena. In the Champagne and Argonne regions in the western theater the Germans seem to be putting forth all their strength to capture the ground the

### DISCUSS RIVER TERMINALS.

Leaders conferred on some plan for Prisoners From the Strathroy Land. considering the appropriation measures and the administration ship bill. The committee investigating charges of influence against the ship bill con-

## NO EXTRA SESSION IS THE LATEST TIP

Changed Mind for Several Reasons.

### WOMEN MAKE PROTEST AGAINST WAR EXPORTS

All Parts of Country-Wilson to See Moving Pictures.

A big tip from an influential man perolated through Washington today that there will be no extra session of Con- fare against merchant ships in British gress, regardless of the fate of the shipping bill in the Senate. The information has been accepted as absolutely correct by those who know where it

lined to state what he will do on this last midnight uestion, although a week ago he told States awaited the official reply of Ge two congressional callers that if the aga March 4 he was practically decided

### Reasons Advanced

First, that if the country is eventuing sperg has received the following the following telegram from Emperor Wilover to force it through.

Second, the converge to the communication. to pass the bill the blame will fall! liam, who has been on the eastern upon the republicans, the democrats crived,

now going on, either in the east or west. Petrograd dispatches insist that the Russians carried out in perfect order their retirement in East Prussian.

Battle Near Augustowo.

An important battle is raging in the vicinity of Augustowo, where, in the fall, the Russians succeeded in stopping a previous German attempt to invade Russia. Now, however, the Muscovites have a much more serious threat to deal with, for besides having sent a new army into East Prussia and the flower Vistula. Their continued advance there would jeopardize the Russians, who are holding the trenches to the southern compensative Calder to attend the annual Sunday and the Vistula and who succeeded in frustrating Field Marshall von Hindenburg's attempts to reach Warsaw from the west.

Possible German Plan.

The German plans are not quite clear, but it is believed probable they still have their eyes on Warsaw and hope

have their eyes on Warsaw and hope by taking that city to break Russian power to resume the offensive, so that they may be free to take more energetic steps against the allies in the west.

Anticipating this possibility the allies, during the past two days, have made a vigorous attack aganst the feutosme of this effort cannot be stated as the French and German reports are in direct conflict.

Russians Reinforced.

In Bukowina the Austrians are reported to have partly surounded the Russians before Czernowitz, but the hattle still is in progress and reinforcements, are reaching the Russians who have the advantage of undamaged railways both to this point and to Nadworns, further west, which the Austrians have reoccupied The Russians report continued progress in the Carpathins.

The British press now concedes that the Russians where retreat in East Prussia, but the their retreat in East Prussia, but the british in East Prussia, but the their retreat in East Prussia, but the many before camping the war and enriching them.

Oppose Arms Exports.

A delegation of women from different parts of the country, headed by Mrs. F. Arnold, widow of Dr. G. Arnold of this chart was obtained in Prussian with a delegation of women from different parts of the country, headed by Mrs. F. Arnold, widow of Dr. G. Arnold of this ferm any there is no clear division between those whom the government is responsible for feeding and where its in your power to discountry in the submitted on all state Department did not discuss what might be done if any American exportation of arms and ammunition to belligerent nations, in which business a few of the inhabitants of the war zones, it was admitted on all sides that the situation was fraught with many grave possibilities.

The British fleet."

It further states that "in any country in which there exists such a tremendous organization for war as obtains in Germany, there is no clear division between those whom the government is responsible for feeding and where the single parts in all the further s

action before the fortified that they are Americans. They were Military experts that the uble flanking movement apass failed, and this view also Petrograd.

They were that they are Americans. They were into force last midnight. Many American vessels will be in the war zones in the next few days, having left the United States before the German proclamation was made public, and these will be afforded, it is believed, an opportunity to reach their destinations. rounding the American government in its dealings with the nations at wer and the necessity that every proposi-tion should be approached with great

strength to capture the ground they are reported to have lost last week. with probably a few members of the circles here. Mississippi Valley Delegates At
Missis

and is an intimate friend.

## NEW YORK, February 18.—The Inquiry Into Charges Against Judge American steamship Caracas, in today from San Juan and other West Indian of influence against the ship bill continued taking testimony. House. House. Met at 11 a.m. Debate was continued on the pension appropriation bill. The fortifications bill, carrying more than six million dollars exclusive of the Fanama canal, was reported to the House for action. from San Juan and other West Indian ports, brought twenty-two Chinese who were prisoners aboard the interned to her prize British steamer Farn, which was captured by the German cruiser Karlsruhe the crew of the British steamship Strathroy, captured by the Karlsruhe last September, and transferred to the House judiciary committee, which arrived here today after helding hearings in West Virginia. Judge Dayton is expected to appear in the investigation of Charges against Federal Judge A. G. Dayton of West Virginia will be resulted by the German cruiser Karlsruhe the crew of the British steamship Strathroy, captured by the Karlsruhe last September, and transferred to the House judiciary committee, which arrived here today after helding hearings in the investigation of Charges against Federal Judge A. G. Dayton of West Virginia will be resulted by the Carlsruhe last September, and transferred to the House judiciary committee, which arrived here today after he farm, which was held when she later put fine San Juan. They were sent to Ellis Island, where they will be held until their cases can be disposed of.

## SHIP SAFETY FEARS **CAUSE WORRY HERE**

War Zone Situation Fraught With Gravity.

### CALL WARSHIP CONVOY AN IMPRACTICAL TOEA

Present Petition Signed by 28,000 in German Press Hostility to U. S. Continues. Although Berlin Government Friendly.

> Fear for the safety of American shipping as a result of the submarine warwaters threatened by Germany over-shadowed today interest in the publica-tion of the full text of Great Britain's to the American government's project against interference with Unit-ed States commerce. The time limit set by Germnay fo

His change of mind is said to be due had been converted into the diplomat Administration officials read the

Resting confident in the belief that the United States government has done ess agitation than if the shipping bill all that it can for the projection of

It further states that "in any coun

### Convoy Plan Impracticable. The recent suggestion from German

President to See Movies.

President Wilson and his family, has not met with approval in naval It was pointed out that no naval tend Conference in St. Louis.

ST. Louis, February 18.—Delegates from most of the states in the Mississippi valley today attended a conference here on river terminals. The meeting is to last two days.

Addresses were to be made by Gov. Major of Missouri and former Gov. Eberhart of Minnesota, chairman of the gathering.

The sessions today were devoted largely to reports on river terminal work in various cities, including Minneapolis, Kansas City, New Orleans and Davenport.

DAY IN CONGRESS.

Met at 1000.

Major of Missouri and former Gov. Eberhart of Minnesota, chairman of the gathering.

The sessions today were devoted largely to reports on river terminal work in various cities, including Minneapolis, Kansas City, New Orleans and Davenport.

DAY IN CONGRESS.

Met at 1000.

Met at 1000.

Met at 1000.

Met at 1000.

Major of Missouri and former Gov. Eberhart of Minnesota, chairman of the gathering.

The sessions today were devoted largely to reports on river terminal work in various cities, including Minneapolis, Kansas City, New Orleans and Davenport.

DAY IN CONGRESS.

Met at 1000.

Met at 1000.

Major of Missouri and former Gov. Eberhart of Minnesota, chairman of the strictly informal, no invitations having been issued, and only members of the family and a few intimate friends will witness it. Preparations for the performance have been made with witness will witness it. Preparations for the performance have been made with with his vessel and claim his protection, with his vessel and claim his protection, as an adequate search of the cargo, of any dama in the world. It is "The Birth of a Nation," by D. W. Griffith. The methic house performance at Los Angeles.

The White House performance is to be strictly informal, no invitations having been issued, and only members of the family near to remain an anod-war would have the right to pass the blockade lines alone, marchant coast. In that case not even an American man-o

### HEARINGS TO GO ON HERE.

Dayton to Be Resumed Monday.



## Text of German Note in Reply to the U.S."War Zone" Protest

The text of the German government's reply to the American note of protest against the proposal to reate a "war zone" of the waters around Great Britain is as follows:

"The imperial government has examined the communication from the United States government in the same spirit of good will and friendship by which the communication appears to have been dictated.

"The imperial government is in accord with the United States gov-ernment that for both parties it is in a high degree desirable to avoid misunderstandings which might arise from measures announced by vide against the occurrence of incidents which might trouble the friendly relations which so far happily exist between the two govern-

### Measure of Self-Defense.

"With regard to the assuring of these friendly relations, the German government believes that it may all the more reckon on a full understanding with the United States as the procedure announced by the German admiralty, which was fully explained in the note of the 4th inlegitimate commerce and legitimate shipping of neutrals, but represents solely a measure of self-defense Imposed on Germany by her vital interests, against England's method of warfare, which is contrary to international law and which so far no protest by neutrals has succeeded in bringing back to the generally recognized principles of law as existing before the outbreak of war. "In order to exclude all doubt regarding the cardinal points the German government once more begs man government once more begs leave to state how things stand. Until now Germany has scrupulous-ly observed valid international rules ly observed valid international rules regarding naval warfare. At the very beginning of the war Germany immediately agreed to the proposal of the American government to ratify the new declaration of London, and took over its contents unaltered, and without formal obligation, into her prize law.

### Indictment of England.

"The German government has obeyed these rules, even when they were diametrically opposed to her military interests. For instance, Germany allowed the transportation of provisions to England from Denmark until today, though she was well able, by her sea forces, to prethis attitude. England has not even hesitated at a second infringement of international law, if by such means she could paralyze the peace-ful commerce of Germany with neutrals. The German government will be the less obliged to enter into debe the less obliged to enter into details, as these are put down sufficiently, though not exhaustively, in the American note to the British government dated December 29, as a result of five months' experience. "All these encroachments have been made, as has been admitted, in order to cut off all supplies from Germany, and thereby starve her peaceful civil population—a procedure contrary to all humanitarian principles. Neutrals have been unable to prevent the interruption of their commerce with Germany, which is contrary to international laws. The American government, as Germany readily acknowledges, has

### Wilhelmina Case Cited. "In spite of these protests and pro-

tests from other neutral states, Great Britain could not be induced to depart from the course of action she had decided upon. Thus, for instance, the American ship Wilhelmina recently was stopped by the British, although her cargo was des-tined solely for the German civil population, and, according to the express declaration of the German government, was to be employed only for this purpose. "Germany is as good as cut off from her overseas supply by the silent or protesting toleration of neutrals, not only in regard to such goods as are absolute contraband, but also in regard to such, as, according to acknowledged law before the war, are only conditional contraband or not contraband at all. Great Britain, on the other hand, is with the toleration of neutral governments not only supplied with such goods as are not contraband or only conditional contragovernment, was to be employed namely, as absolute contraband; namely, provisions, industrial raw materials, etc., and even with materials, etc., and even with goods which have always indubitably been regarded as absolute contraband.

### Charges Traffic in Arms.

"The German government feels it-self obliged to point out with the greatest emphasis that a traffic in millions, is being carried on between mies. Germany fully comprehends eration of wrong on the part of neudiscretion of neutrals and involve no formal violation of neutrality. Ger-many, therefore, did not complain of any formal violation of neutrality, but the German government, in view of complete evidence before it, cannot help pointing out that it, together with the entire public opinion of Germany, feels itself to be severely prejudiced by the fact that neutrals in safeguarding the the rights in leading feels itself to be severely prejudiced by the fact that neutrals in safeguarding their rights in legitimate commerce with Germany according to international law, have, up to the present, achieved no, or only insignificant, results, while they are making unlimited use of their right by carrying on contraband traffic with Great Britain and our other enemies. "If it is a formal right of neutrals to take no steps to protect their legitimate trade with Germany and even to allow themselves to be influenced in the direction of the conscious and willful restriction of their trade, on the other hand they have the perfect right, which they unfortunately do not exercise, to cease contraband trade, especially in arms, with Germany's enemies. "In view of this situation Germany, after six months of patient waiting, sees herself obliged to answer Great Britain's murderous method of naval warfare with sharp counter measures. If Great Britain in her fight against Germany Germany agging the second of the second of the situation of the station of the second of the seco sharp counter measures. If Great Britain in her fight against Germany summons hunger as an ally, for the purpose of imposing upon a civilized people of seventy millions the choice between destitution and starvation or submission to Great

Equal Treatment Asked. "Germany trusts that the neutrals who so far have submitted to the disadvantageous consequences of Great Britain's hunger war in silence, or merely in registering a protest, will display toward Germany no smaller measure of toleration, even if German measures, like those of Great Britain, present new "Moreover, the German govern-ment is resolved to suppress with all means at its disposal the im-

nmercial will, the

ny today is determined to take the gantlet and appeal to sim-

many today is determined

ment is resolved to suppress with all means at its disposal the importation of war material to Great Britain and her allies, and she takes it for granted that neutral governments, which so far have taken no steps against the traffic in arms with Germany's enemies, will not oppose forcible suppression by Germany of this trade.

"Acting from this point of view, the German admiralty proclaimed a naval war zone whose limits it exactly defined. Germany, so far as possible, will seek to close this war zone with mines, and will also endeavor to destroy hostile merchant vessels in every other way. While the German government in taking action based upon this overpowering point of view keeps itself far

removed from all intentional destruction of neutral lives and property, on the other hand, it does not fail to recognize that from the action to be taken against Great Britain dangers arise which threaten all trade within the war zone, without distinction. This is a natural result of mine warfare, which even under the strictest observance of the limits of international law endangers every ship approaching the mine area.

### Responsibility Disclaimed.

ers itself entitled to hope that all neutrals will acquiesce in these measures as they have done in the case of the grievous damages in flicted upon them by British meas-

flicted upon them by British measures, all the more so as Germany is resolved, for the protection of neutral shipping even in the naval war zone, to do everything which is at all compatible with the attainment of this object.

"In view of the fact that Germany gave the first proof of her good will in fixing a time limit of not less than fourteen days before the execution of said measures, so that neutral shipping might have an opportunity of making arrangements to avoid threatening danger, this can most surely be achieved by remaining away from the naval war zone. Neutral vessels, which, despite this ample notice, which greatly affects the achievement of our aims in our war against Great Britain, enter these closed waters will themselves bear the responsibility for any unfortunate accidents that may occur. Germany disclaims all responsibility for such accidents and their consequences. sponsibility to their consequences.

Aimed Only at Enemy Ships. "Germany has further expressly enemy merchant vessels found withstruction of all merchant vessels as the United States seems erroneously to have understood. This restriction which Germany imposes upon itself is prejudicial to the aim of our warfare, especially as in the application of the conception of contraband practiced by Great Britain toward Germany—which conception will now also be similarly interpret-ed by Germany—the presumption will be that neutral ships have contraband aboard. Germany naturally is unwilling to renounce its rights to ascertain the presence of contraband in neutral vessels, and in certain cases to draw conclusions therefrom."

"Germany is ready, finally, to defrom."

"Germany is ready, finally, to deliberate with the United States concerning any measures which might
secure the safety of legitimate shipping of neutrals in the war zone.
Germany cannot, however, forbear to
point out that all its efforts in this
direction may be rendered very difficult by two circumstances; first, the
misuse of neutral flags by British
merchant vessels, which is indubitably known to the United States; second, the contraband trade already
mentioned, especially in war materials, on neutral vessels.

Hones for "Beel Neutrality"

### Hopes for "Real Neutrality."

"Regarding the latter point, Ger-many would fain hope that the United States after further consideration will come to a conclusion corresponding to the spirit of real neutrality regarding the first point. The secret order of the British admiralty recommending to British merchant ships the use of neutral flags has been communicated by Germany to the United States and confirmed by communication from the British foreign office, which designates this procedure as entirely unobjectionable and in accordance with British law. British merchant shipping immediately followed this advice, as doubtless is known to the American government from the incidents of the Lusitania and the Lacttes. Lacrtes.
"Moreover, the British government

has supplied arms to British mer-chant ships and instructed them (Continued on Second Page.)

## **GERMAN REPLY TAKES** FIRM STAND AGAINST **WASHINGTON PROTEST**

## Insists on Necessity of "War Zone" and Renews Warning to All **Neutral Shipping.**

### BERLIN DECLARES BRITISH WILL TORPEDO U. S. SHIP

BERLIN, via Sayville, February 18.-The head of the admiralty information bureau this morning made this state-

"We have received informaton that it is the intention of England to torpedo the first incoming American steamer and charge this to the German submarines.'

The Vossische Zeitung, Berlin, this morning carries a story from its Hamburg correspondent declaring shipping interests there fear such action. HERBERT COREY.

BERLIN, via London, February 18.-The reply of Germany to the protest of the United States against a blockade of British waters is couched in the most friendly terms, but firmly maintains the position of Germany as already announced.

The answer, which is a lengthy document, was converted into code at the United States embassy under the direction of Ambassador Gerard, and has been transmitted in full to Washington.

cut off the food supply for the German

### Makes Claim of Necessity.

Since Germany must compel the naional law and restore the freedom of the

The note recommends that the United would act in accordance with the new

of the hope that the United States may

by belligerents opposed to Germany. If this were done, the note explains

### BLOCKADE OF ENGLAND IS ON: NO SHIPS SAIL FOR HOLLAND

LONDON, February 18, 12:47 p.m.—
The blockade of the United Kingdom by Germany is on, for with the dawn of February 18 there went into effect the German notice warning neutral shipping to avoid British waters.

What will be the effect of this declaration will take a day or two to demonstrate. British shipping interests profess to feel no alarm; nevertheless, all passenger traffic from England to Holland has been tied up. The lines to Scandinavia, however, still continue to run. The cross-channel services have announced that their schedules will be maintained as usual.

In a hostile submarine. It is not known what the admiralty instructions to skippors are, although a hint of what is expected of them was found in the recent decoration of the captain of the British steamer Lacrtes, who refused to surrender to a German submersible.

There has been no increase in insurance rates, and, in fact, the government actually has reduced rates for fishing vessels, at the same time having arranged to pay compensation to sailors who may be injured as the excit of hostilities. There has been on increase in the price of coal and in coal freights, but this is due entirely to the maintained as usual.

No Reply to Holland

Interest in German Note. In the meantime the British public is perusing the German note answering the American communication concern ing the war zone one blockade. It perceives no yielding on the part of the perial government, and it now awaits the pronouncement of Great Britain's expected retaliatory campaign.

Just as the countryside was placarded with descriptions and cuts of the British and German aircraft when air raids were uppermost in the public mind, illustrations showing British and German subnarines are now being distributed to acquaint the skippers or merchant vessels with the appearance of their own and hoetile under-sea vessels, so that they will not fire on or ram a British submersible by mistake.

### Would Arm Merchantmen.

In many quarters the demand is inreasing that masters of ships held up or threatened by submarines should be al-

### No Reply to Holland.

Neither Great Britain nor Germany, as far as is known, has yet replied to the Dutch notes of protest, respectively, against the use of neutral flags and the sea war zone. The Dutch shippers have decided to ask the Netherlands government to penalize foreign vessels entering Dutch ports under the Dutch flag.

Telegraphing from Copenhagen, the Daily Mail's correspondent says he Daily Mail's correspondent says he learns from Hamburg that the belief prevails there that Emperor William is going to Helgoland personally to direct Germbany's submarine blockade.

"The wheat shortage in Germany," the correspondent adds, "was concealed until the last moment for fear of discouraging the people. It is much greater than has hitherto been believed. Germany will only escape famine before the next harvest by a narrow margin."

"I dispatch from Copenhagen says that Germany's reply to he joint note of the Scandinavian powers on the blockade question has been received, but no announcement has been made

# threatened by submarines should be allowed to use offensive measures and various private rewards totaling several thousand pounds still stand to be taken down by the first British skipper destroy-

### COMMENT IN BERLIN ON NOTE SHOWS BITTERNESS TOWARD U. S.

BERLIN, February 18, via London, which could disturb existing friendly 12:20 p.m.—Count von Reventlow, the relations. German naval critic, comments in toanswer of the German government to the American note on the subject of those parts of the German answer

Bitter Against United States. "One can read only with pleasure

the American note on the subject of those parts of the German answer the marine war zone around Great which refer to American supplies to England and France," the writer says. Britain.

The writer declares that the tone of the German note, in spite of the tone of the American communication, shows that Germany is prepared to go to the utmost limits compatible with the situation. No fault can be found with the declaration in the German answer, Count von Reventlow declares, that the German government, like the American, desires to prevent occurrences